Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs 2015 Guide to Veterans' Benefits



1-877-GEAUX-VA (1-877-432-8982) vetaffairs.la.gov

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The mission of Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs is to provide comprehensive care and quality service to Louisiana's Veterans and their families with regard to health care, education, disability benefits, long-term care, and burial honors.

LDVA supports its mission through a variety of programs and services such as:

- Veterans Parish Service Offices located across Louisiana
- Five state-of-the-art Veterans Homes located across the state
- Veterans Cemeteries located across the state
- LAVETBIZ, an initiative to support Veteran and Disabled Veteran-owned small businesses
- Military Family Assistance Fund (MFA) to provide financial support to members of the Louisiana National Guard and Military Reserves
- Louisiana Veterans Honor Medal

Eligibility Criteria

To qualify for most Louisiana state Veterans' benefits, programs or services, a Veteran must first establish general eligibility as outlined in state law per LA Revised Statutes, Chapter 29.

General eligibility consists of two broad requirements*:

- 1. Military Service (character; type; duration)
- 2. Louisiana state residency

Veterans with other than honorable discharges may be eligible for LDVA benefits if they qualify for certain benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Spouses and dependents of deceased Veterans who meet LDVA eligibility requirements may also be eligible for certain programs and services.

^{*} Specific programs and/or benefits may have additional requirements.

LDVA Veterans Parish Service Offices

The Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs maintains Veterans Parish Service Offices throughout Louisiana, ensuring Louisiana Veterans and their families receive the assistance they need right in their local community.

Offices are staffed by LDVA Veterans Assistance Counselors (VAC) who are trained and certified through U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to assist Veterans with all aspects of their federal and state benefits.

VACs are usually a Veteran's first point of contact for benefits and eligibility questions. All information remains strictly confidential.

Veterans are encouraged to make a permanent copy of their Certificate of Release or Discharge (DD214) from active duty by recording it with their home parish courthouse. Louisiana law protects the confidentiality of discharge papers.

Following is a complete listing of all LDVA Veterans Parish Service Offices.

LDVA Veterans Parish Service Offices

Acadia

601 N. Parkerson Ave Crowley, LA 70526 Phone: 337-788-7539

Fax: 337-788-4987

Allen

105 N. Fifth Street Oberlin, LA 70655 Phone: 337-639-4370

Ascension (Main)

828 S. Irma Blvd., Room 104 Courthouse Annex, East Gonzales, LA 70737 Phone: 225-644-7475 Fax: 225-647-6917

Ascension (Itinerant)

300 Houma Street Courthouse Building Donaldsonville, LA 70346 Phone: 225-474-2001

Assumption

4751 Hwy. 1 Napoleonville, LA 70390 Phone: 985-369-6335 Fax: 985-369-6058

Avoyelles

366 East Waddil St. Marksville, LA 71351 Phone: 318-253-9437 Fax: 318-253-7996

Beauregard

250 West 7th Street War Memorial Civic Center DeRidder, LA 70634 Phone: 337-463-7305 **Office Hours**

M through F 8:00 a.m.— 4:30 p.m.

Office Hours

Tuesday; 1st & 3rd Thurs 9:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

Office Hours

M-W-TH-F (closed Tues) 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Office Hours

Tuesday 8:45 a.m.—3:45 p.m.

Office Hours

M-W-F

8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Office Hours

M through F 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Office Hours

Tues & Thurs 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Bienville

100 Courthouse Dr., Suite 1000 Courthouse Building Arcadia, LA 71001 Phone: 318-263-7419 Fax: 318-263-7445

Bossier

2292 Barksdale Blvd. Bossier City, LA 71112 Phone: 318-741-8391/8392 Fax: 318-741-7470

Caddo

1031 Creswell Ave. Shreveport, LA 71101 Phone: 318-676-7540 Fax: 318-676-7555

Calcasieu

1000 Ryan Street, Ground Floor Courthouse Lake Charles, LA 70601 Phone: 337-491-2309

Fax: 337-491-2374

Caldwell

201 Main Street, Suite 6 Courthouse, 2nd Floor Columbia, LA 71418 Phone: 318-649-2552 Fax: 318-649-2552

Cameron

Courthouse Basement 119 Smith Circle Cameron, LA 70631 Phone: 337-491-2309

Catahoula

108 Sicily Street Harrisonburg Town Hall Harrisonburg, LA 71340 Phone: 318-744-5601 Office Hours

Thursday 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Office Hours

M through F 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Office Hours

M through F 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Office Hours

M through F 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Office Hours

M-W-F

8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Office Hours

By Appointment Only

Office Hours

Thursday 8:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

Claiborne

507 West Main Police Jury Building Homer, LA 71040

Phone: 318-927-3077 Fax: 318-927-4809

Concordia

109 Doty Road Ferriday, LA 71334

Phone: 318-757-4952 Fax: 318-757-7159

DeSoto

404 Polk Street Mansfield, LA 71052 Phone: 318-872-4325

Phone: 318-872-4325 Fax: 318-872-7538

E. Baton Rouge

1755 Florida Blvd 3rd Floor Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Phone: 225-342-5248 Fax: 225-342-6941

East Carroll

407 2nd Street, Ste. 5 Old Courthouse Building Lake Providence, LA 71254

Phone: 318-559-4887 Fax: 318-559-3946

East Feliciana

4739 Hwy. 10 LA War Veterans Home Jackson, LA 70748

Phone: 225-634-5265/225-342-8998

Fax: 225-342-6022

Office Hours

M-W-F

8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Office Hours

M-W-F

8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Office Hours

Tuesday

9:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

Office Hours

M through F

8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Office Hours

Wednesday

8:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Office Hours M-T-F

8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Evangeline

205 Court Street, Ste. D Evangeline Parish Spec. Serv. Bldg.

Ville Platte, LA 70586 Phone: 337-363-3862 Fax: 337-363-3866

<u>Franklin</u>

6558 Main Street Courthouse, 1st Floor Winnsboro, LA 71295

Phone: 318-435-2141 Fax: 318-435-2193

Grant

200 Main Street Grant Parish Courthouse Colfax, LA 71417

Phone: 318-627-3157

<u>Iberia</u>

121 W. Pershing Street Courthouse Annex, Suite 200 New Iberia, LA 70560 Phone: 337-373-0001

Phone: 337-373-000 Fax: 337-373-0088

Iberville

58105 Court Street Iberville Council on Aging Plaquemine, LA 70764 Phone: 225.687.2714

Phone: 225-687-2714 Fax: 225-685-0188

Jackson

322 6th Street, Courthouse Annex Jonesboro, LA 71251

Phone: 318-259-2100

Office Hours

M-W-F; 2nd & 4th Thurs 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Office Hours

M-W-F

8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Office Hours

4th Wed. of month ONLY 9:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

Office Hours

M through F 8:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Office Hours

M-T-TH

8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Office Hours

Tuesday

9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Jefferson (East Bank)

1221 Elmwood Park Blvd. Yenni Bldg., Ste 337 Jefferson, LA 70121

Phone: 504-731-4580/4581 Fax: 504-731-4595

Jefferson (West Bank)

5001 West Bank Expressway, Ste. C1

Marrero, LA 70072 Phone: 504-349-5937/5938

Fax: 504-349-5939

Jefferson Davis (Main)

814 S. Lake Arthur Dr. Jeff Davis Fairgrounds Jennings, LA 70546

Phone: 337-824-7301 Fax: 337-824-1580

Jefferson Davis (SWLA Vet Home)

1610 Evangeline Hwy SW LA Veterans Home Jennings, LA 70546

Phone: 337-824-2829 Fax: 337-824-2581

Lafayette

2100 Jefferson Street War Memorial Bldg., Room 403B

Lafayette, LA 70501

Phone: 337-262-5628 Fax: 337-262-1225

Lafourche (Main)

303 W. Third Street Thibodaux. LA 70301 Phone: 985-447-0968

Fax: 985-449-5104

Office Hours

M through F 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Office Hours

M through F

8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Office Hours

M-W-F

8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Office Hours

Tues & Thurs 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Office Hours

M through F

8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Office Hours M-W-Th-F

8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Lafourche (Itinerant)

4876 Hwy 1

Old Mathews Office Bldg. Mathews, LA 70375

Phone: 985-537-7603

LaSalle

First & Second Streets 1009 Courthouse St., Ste. C

Jena, LA 71342

Phone: 318-992-2259

Lincoln

307 Homer Street, 2nd Floor

Ruston, LA 71270 Phone: 318-251-4142

Livingston

20140 Iowa Street. Livingston, LA 70754 Phone: 225-686-3295

Fax: 225-686-3296

Madison

402 E. Green Street Tallulah, LA 71282

Phone: 318-574-3870 Fax: 318-574-8786

Morehouse

129 N. Franklin Street Bastrop, LA 71220

Phone: 318-283-0841 Fax: 318-283-0891

Office Hours

Tuesday

9:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Office Hours

Tues & Thurs

8:45 a.m.—3:45 p.m.

Office Hours

M-W-F

8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Office Hours

M-T-TH-F (closed Wed)

7:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Office Hours

M-T-Th-F (Closed Wed)

8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Office Hours

M-W-F

8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Natchitoches

201 St. Denis Street Natchitoches, LA 71457 Phone: 318-357-3106 Fax: 318-357-2428

Orleans 517 N. Rampart Street New Orleans, LA 70112 Phone: 504-658-2930 Fax: 504-658-2931

Ouachita

704 Cypress Street State Agricultural Bldg. West Monroe, LA 71291 Phone: 318-362-5137/3002

Fax: 318-362-3088

Plaquemines

333 F. Edward Hebert Blvd, Bldg 600 Tuesday

Belle Chase, LA 70037 Phone: 504-934-6110 Fax: 504-934-6111

Pointe Coupee

206 Court Street New Roads, LA 70760 Phone: 225-638-5535

Fax: 225-638-5964

Rapides

730 Washington Street Alexandria, LA 71301 Phone: 318-487-5743 Fax: 318-484-2238

Red River

2010 Red Oak Rd. Courthouse Annex Coushatta, LA 71019 Phone: 318-932-4911

Office Hours

M-Th-F

Office Hours

M through F 8:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

Office Hours

M through F 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Office Hours

9:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

Office Hours

Wednesday & Thursday 9:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

Office Hours

M through F 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Office Hours

3rd Tues. of month ONLY 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Richland

708 Julia Street Courthouse Basement Rayville, LA 71269 Phone: 318-728-2472 Fax: 318-728-0189

Sabine

400 Capital Street Courthouse, 1st Floor Many, LA 71449 Phone: 318-256-4131 Fax: 318-256-4169

St. Bernard

8201 W. Judge Perez Dr. Chalmette, LA 70043 Phone: 504-355-4468 Fax: 504-355-4469

St. Charles

15045 River Road Parish Courthouse, Room 276 Hahnville, LA 70057

Phone: 985-783-2221

St. Helena 53 N. 2nd Street Greensburg, LA 70441 Phone: 225-222-6202

<u>St. James</u> 2430 Louisiana Avenue Lutcher, LA 70071 Phone: 225-869-3643

St. John the Baptist

4080 W. Airline SE LA Veterans Home Reserve, LA

Phone: 985-479-4080 Fax: 985-479-4090

Office Hours

Tuesday & Thursday 8:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

Office Hours

M-W-Th-F 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Office Hours

M-W-Th-F (closed Tues) 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Office Hours

Tues & Fri 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Office Hours

Wednesday 8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Office Hours
Tuesday & Thursday 9:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

Office Hours

M-W-TH

8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

St. Landry (Main)

1065 Hwy 749, Suite F Opelousas, LA 70570 Phone: 337-948-0238 Fax: 337-942-0375

Office Hours M through F

8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

St. Landry (Itinerant)

2101 W. Ash Avenue Eunice, LA 70535 Phone: 337-457-5706

Office Hours

Wednesday 9:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

St. Martin

101 Berard Street Breaux Bridge, LA 70517 Phone: 337-332-8316 Fax: 337-507-3286

Office Hours

Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

St. Mary (Main)

500 Main Street, Room 102 Franklin, LA 70538 Phone: 337-828-5047

Fax: 337-828-7099

Office Hours

M through F 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

St. Tammany (West)

510 E. Boston Street Old Court House Covington, LA 70433 Phone: 985-893-6201 Fax: 985-893-6299

Office Hours

M-W-F 8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

St. Tammany (East) 520 Old Spanish Trail, Ste. 2-E Slidell, LA 70458 Phone: 985-645-3500 Fax: 985-645-3528

Office Hours

M through F 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Tangipahoa (Main)

411 W. Coleman Ave. Social Service Bldg. Hammond, LA 70401 Phone: 985-542-3498 Fax: 985-543-4030

Tensas

205 Hancock Street Tensas Parish Police Jury Bldg. St. Joseph, LA 71366 Phone: 318-766-3542

Terrebonne

Fax: 985-857-3783

8026 Main Street, Ste. 106 Terrebonne Parish Gov. Towers Houma, LA 70360 Phone: 985-857-3626

Union

303 East Water Street, Courthouse Annex, Office #106 Farmerville, LA 71241 Phone: 318-368-3271 Fax: 318-368-1330

Vermilion

407 Charity St., Ste. 101 Abbeville, LA 70510 Phone: 337-893-2072 Fax: 337-893-5620

Office Hours

M through F 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Office Hours

Tuesday 8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Office Hours

M through F 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Office Hours

Tuesday & Thursday 8:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Office Hours

M through F 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Vernon

408 West Fertitta Blvd, Suite C Leesville, LA 71446

Phone: 337-238-6401 Fax: 337-238-7021

Washington (Main)

202 Arkansas Avenue City Hall Building Bogalusa, LA 70427 Phone: 985-732-6607

Fax: 985-732-6695

Washington (Itinerant)

215 11th Avenue Franklinton, LA 70438 Phone: 985-839-3497

Fax: 985-795-2468

Webster (Main)

166 Pine Street American Legion Memorial Home

Minden, LA 71055 Phone: 318-371-3045 Fax: 318-371-3331

Webster (Itinerant) 235 N. Main Street Springhill, LA 71075

Phone: 318-539-4211

West Baton Rouge

883 7th Street Port Allen, LA 70767

Phone: 225-342-6686

Office Hours

M through F 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Office Hours

M-W-Th-F (closed Tues) 8:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Office Hours

Tuesday 8:00 a.m. 4:30 p.m.

Office Hours

M-T-Th-F (closed Wed) 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Office Hours

Wednesday 8:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Office Hours

Wednesday 8:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

West Carroll 310 Skinner Lane Oak Grove, LA 71263 Phone: 318-428-2671 Fax: 318-428-9767

West Feliciana 4739 Hwy. 10 LA War Veterans Home Jackson, LA 70748

Phone: 225-634-5265\342-8998

Fax: 225-342-6022

Winn

101 W. Main Street, Room 4 Phone: 318-628-4584 Phone: 318-628-2508

Office Hours
Tuesday & Thursday
8:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Office Hours M-T-F 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Office Hours

1st, 2nd, & 4th Tue & Wed 8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Education Benefits

Contact the Veterans Parish Service Office nearest you and/or the designated Veterans representative at the learning institute of your choosing to learn about specific programs and services that may be offered beyond those listed in this booklet.

POST-9/11 GI BILL

1-888-GI-BILL (1-888-442-4551) or www.gibill.va.gov

Only active-duty service performed after September 11, 2001 may be considered. Effective date is August 1, 2009; tuition and fees are paid directly to the institution, not to the student. To be eligible, a service member or Veteran must have:

- Served at least 90 aggregate days on active-duty after September 11, 2001, to earn 40% of the benefit, and served at least 36 months to earn 100% of the benefit
- Been honorably discharged and served 30 continuous days after September 11, 2001

CHAPTER 33-9/11

- Pays all public costs including Masters and PhD programs
- Private school costs capped at \$17,500 (except for Yellow Ribbon Program)
- Prorates housing allowance to training time
- Pays housing allowance for those solely in distance learning programs
- Covers National Guard members on state duty (Title 32)
- Covers non-college degree programs, on-the-job-training, apprenticeship, and flight programs
- Reimbursement to multiple licensing and certification tests
- Vocational rehabilitation participants can elect the higher housing allowance offered by Post 9/11 GI Bill if otherwise eligible for Post 9/11 GI Bill
- Pays books stipend to Active Duty members
- Provides transfer of benefits to public health service and NOAA personnel

YELLOW RIBBON GI EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (YELLOW RIBBON PROGRAM)

www.gibill.va.gov or 1-888-442-4551

This program allows institutions of higher learning (degree granting institutions) in the United States to voluntarily enter into an agreement with VA to fund tuition and fees. The institution can waive up to 50% of tuition and fees, and VA will match.

Individuals entitled to the maximum benefits (based on service time post-9/11) may receive 100% Yellow Ribbon benefits.

MONTGOMERY GI BILL -ACTIVE DUTY (CHAPTER 30)

This program provides up to 36 months of education benefits to eligible Veterans and currently pays up to \$1,648 per month for a full-time student. The benefit may be used for degree and vocational programs, certificates or correspondence courses, independent study programs, apprenticeship/on-the-job training, flight training programs, licenses and certifications, as well as remedial and refresher courses (restrictions apply).

VETERANS RETRAINING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (VRAP)

Offers 12 months of Montgomery GI Bill benefits for older, unemployed Veterans. Can be used towards an associate degree, non-college degree, or certification and training for a high demand occupation. Eligibility includes:

- Veteran must be at least 35 but no more than 60 years old
- Veteran must be unemployed (per US Dept. of Labor)
- Veteran must have an honorable discharge
- Veteran must: not be eligible for any other VA education benefit program.; not receive VA compensation due to unemployability; not be enrolled in a federal or Louisiana state job training program

MONTGOMERY GI BILL SELECTED RESERVE (CHAPTER 1606)

The Selected Reserve includes the Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Air Force Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Coast Guard Reserve, Army National Guard, and Air National Guard. The benefit may be used for degree and certificate programs, flight training, apprenticeship/on-the-job training, and correspondence courses as well as remedial, deficiency, and refresher courses (restrictions apply).

RESERVE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ("REAP," or "CHAPTER 1607")

This is a Department of Defense education benefit program designed to provide educational assistance to members of the Reserve components called or ordered to active duty in response to a war or national emergency (contingency operation) as declared by the President or Congress. This program makes certain Reservists who were activated for at least 90 days after September 11, 2001, eligible for education increased benefits.

VETERAN GI BILL APPRENTICESHIP AND OJT PROGRAM

Offers an alternative way to use GI Bill education and training benefits. Where, during training for a new job, a Veteran may be able to receive monthly training benefits from the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in addition to a regular salary. For more information, please contact SAA at (225) 219-5000.

VEAP - ACTIVE DUTY (CHAPTER 32)

VEAP is available to those who first entered active-duty between January 1, 1977, and June 30, 1985, and elected to make contributions from military pay to participate in the education benefit program. The benefit may be used for degree and certificate programs, flight training, apprenticeship/on-the-job training, and correspondence courses as well as remedial, deficiency, and refresher courses (restrictions apply).

SURVIVORS AND DEPENDENTS EDUCATION (CHAPTER 35)

Provides education and training opportunities to eligible dependents of Veterans who are permanently and totally disabled due to a service-related condition or who died while on active duty or as a result of a service related condition. Offers up to 45 months of education benefits to be used for degree programs and on-the-job training as well as remedial, deficiency and refresher courses (restrictions apply).

IN-STATE TUITION STATUS

In-state tuition status is granted to Veterans and active-duty military who seek to attend any Louisiana public college or university. Contact the VA representative at your school of choice for more information.

LA TITLE 29 DEPENDENTS' EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE

This state benefit provides education assistance to surviving spouses of certain deceased Veterans as well as children of Veterans rated with a 90% or more service-connected disability and children of Veterans rated with a 100% service-connected disability due to individual un-employability.

LA NATIONAL GUARD TUITION EXEMPTION www.la.ngb.army.mil or 1-800-GOGUARD

Members are exempt from tuition at any state-funded college, university, or vocational/technical school for five years or upon earning a bachelor's degree, whichever comes first.

VA WORK STUDY PROGRAM

Full-time or 3/4 – time students in a college degree program or a vocational or professional program can earn while they learn with a VA Work Study allowance. The VA Work Study allowance is available to persons training under: The Post -9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33), Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty (Chapter 30), Vocational Rehabilitation (Chapter 31), VEAP (Chapter 32), Dependents' Educational Assistance Program (Chapter 35), and Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve (Chapter 1606 and 1607).

Employment Assistance and Benefits

Business and Career Solution Centers

laworks.net 1-800-259-5154

The Louisiana Workforce Commission operates local business and career solution centers to assist Veterans in finding employment and making career choices.

Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Chapter 31)

vba.va.gov/bln/vre/vrs.htm 1-888-442-4551

The Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program helps Veterans with service-connected disabilities prepare for, find, and keep jobs. For Veterans with service-connected disabilities so severe that they cannot immediately consider work, the program offers services to improve their ability to live as independently as possible.

HERO2HIRED

www.H2H.jobs

Hero2Hired (H2H) assists unemployed Reserve Component service members with job placement. It is a comprehensive employment program that includes a focused marketing component and everything a job seeker needs to find a job including job listings, career exploration tools, education and training resources, advice and tips, and networking opportunities. Additionally, H2H gives military-friendly companies access to service members and allows them to post job openings, search for candidates, and invite them to apply and participate in a hiring event.

Veterans as Apprentices

www.laworks.net 225-342-3111

The Louisiana Workforce Commission, Apprenticeship Division, provides information on Louisiana apprenticeship programs.

Troops to Teachers

proudtoserveagain.com 1-800-761-3012

Troops to Teachers (TTT) is a U.S. Department of Education and Department of Defense program managed by the Defense Activity for Non Traditional Education Support (DANTES) with support offices in states across the country. TTT helps to recruit quality teachers for schools that serve students from low-income families and to relieve teacher shortages, especially in math, science, special education, and other critical subject areas.

TTT provides information, advice and funding to eligible Veterans, Reservists, and active-duty personnel who are about to leave active service and want to pursue teaching as a second career.

Financial assistance may be in the form of stipends of up to \$5,000 to help pay for teacher certification programs or bonuses of \$10,000 for those who commit to teach in schools serving a high percentage of students from low-income families.

Participants who accept a stipend or bonus must agree to teach for three years in districts/schools that serve a qualifying percentage of students from low-income families and must obtain licensure/certification within that time frame.

Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act

www.dol.gov/vets/programs/userra Phone: 225-389-0339

FAX (225) 342-3152

The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) is a federal statute that provides job protections and employment rights to military service personnel who serve on military duty.

Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS) staff provides technical assistance to Veterans, National Guard members, and Reservists who experience conflicts between their military commitments and civilian employment. VETS staff also assist employers by providing information about the USERRA statute and explaining employer and employee responsibilities as well as military leave policies. In addition, the statute also covers discrimination in hiring due to the service member's military obligation.

When an alleged violation of the USERRA statute exists, a complaint may be filed with VETS.

To qualify for a claim, the uniformed service member must:

- Provide advance notice of his military leave of absence to his employer and meet the duration of military service requirements
- Serve in the military under honorable conditions
- Request reinstatement within the prescribed time limit

Assistance can be provided by the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves at 1-800-336-4590 or the U.S. Department of Labor's Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS), located in the Louisiana Workforce Commission Administration Building, Room 184, at 1001 North 23rd Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802.

Phone: 225-389-0339 Fax: 225-342-3152

LA State Civil Service

www.civilservice.la.gov 1-866-783-5462

Louisiana state and city civil service departments award a fivepoint preference in original appointment to Veterans who served honorably U.S. Armed Forces. They also award ten-point preference to each honorably discharged service-connected disabled Veteran. Spouses of Veterans who are rated VA unemployable as well as un-remarried widows of deceased Veterans and Gold Star parents are also eligible for this preference. Some restrictions apply for eligibility.

The Veterans preference also extends to layoffs over other non-Veteran employees with equal lengths of service and efficiency ratings.

Federal Civil Service

www.opm.gov/veterans/html/vetguide.asp#2 (202) 606-1800.

Federal law also grants a 5-and 10-point preference to Veterans applying for federal jobs. The requirements are similar to the Louisiana state requirements above.

Transfer of Military Skills to Civilian Employment

HB 732/Act 276 of the 2012 LA Legislative Session states that individuals with military training and experience will be granted professional licensure and/or certification when the service member has been awarded a military occupational specialty and performance in that specialty is at a level equal to or exceeding the requirements for said license and/or certification (provisions may apply).

The same also allows for spouses of individuals with military training and experience will be granted a license, certification or registration to lawfully practice an occupation by the appropriate professional or occupational licensing board when the spouse meets certain conditions.

Contact the certifying board related to your profession for more information.

Veteran Owned Small Businesses

Federal VETBIZ

vetbiz.gov 1-866-584-2344

VA's Center for Veterans Enterprise helps Veterans interested in forming or expanding small businesses and helps VA contracting offices identify Veteran-owned small businesses. For more information, visit vetbiz.gov or call toll-free 1-866-584-2344.

LAVETBIZ

vetaffairs.la.gov/lavetbiz 1-877-GEAUX-VA

LAVETBIZ is a business initiative established to provide additional opportunities for Louisiana based Veteran and service connected disabled Veteran-owned small business owners when they seek to work with the State of Louisiana. LAVETBIZ is supported by compliance mandates which are enforced through the Louisiana Division of Administration. Please contact LDVA to learn more about this program: vetaffairs.la.gov or call toll free 1-877-GEAUX-VA.

Tax Benefits

Special Property Assessment

The property value assessment (for the residential property receiving the homestead exemption) is frozen for Veterans rated with a 50% or greater service-connected disability whose 2012 adjusted gross income (and any other owner, such as a spouse) does not exceed 71,562 and who own and occupy the residence. The same benefit is available to members of the U.S. Armed Forces and the Louisiana National Guard (who owned and last occupied such property) who are killed in action, or who are missing in action, or are a prisoner of war for a period exceeding ninety days.

In 2010, new legislation passed that allowed for a constitutional amendment which, upon approval of the voters of Louisiana, would double the Homestead Exemption for Louisiana disabled Veterans who own their own home from \$7,500 to \$15,000. In 2012, this benefit was expanded to included the Veteran's spouse.

In 2013, new legislation passed that allowed for Veterans with a service-connected VA disability rating of 100% unemployability or totally disabled as well as their surviving spouses to qualify for double the Homestead exemption effective Jan. 1, 2015. (certain qualifications apply).

Check with your local tax assessor's office to see which exemptions are available in your parish.

Military Retiree Pay Tax Exemption

Military retirement benefits are exempt from Louisiana state taxation.

Combat Pay Exemption

Military pay that is exempt from federal taxation, such as combat pay or hazardous duty pay, is also exempt from Louisiana state taxation.

LDVA Veterans Homes

LDVA proudly operates five state-of-the-art Veterans Homes across the state. Each facility offers a variety of services including:

- Long- and short-term care
- Rehabilitative therapies
- Alzheimer's and Intermediate care
- Skilled Nursing
- Mental Health services
- Centralized Pharmacy Services
- And more

Veterans, their spouses and Gold Star parents are eligible for admission into the Veterans Homes if they are deemed to meet basic qualifying criteria.

For a listing of admission requirements, facility locations and contact information, please visit vetaffairs.la.gov/veterans-homes or call toll free 1-877-GEAUX-VA.

Louisiana Veterans Home 4739 Hwy 10 Jackson, LA 70748

Mr. Jon Salter, Administrator Tel: (225) 634-5265 Fax: (225) 634-4057

Northeast Louisiana Veterans Home 6700 Hwy 165 North Monroe, LA 71203

Mr. James "Ken" Houston, Administrator Tel: (318) 362-4206 Fax: (318) 362-4241

Southwest Louisiana Veterans Home 1610 Evangeline Rd Jennings, LA 70546

Mr. Matthew Duhon, Administrator Tel: (337) 824-2829 Fax: (337) 824-2581

Northwest Louisiana Veterans Home 3130 Arthur Ray Teague Pkwy Bossier City, LA 71112

Mr. Byron N. Hines, Administrator Tel: (318) 741-2763 Fax: (318) 741-2783

Southeast Louisiana Veterans Home 4080 W. Airline Hwy Reserve, LA 70084

Mr. Cleveland Obey, Administrator Tel: (985) 479-4080 Fax: (985) 479-4090

LDVA Veterans Cemeteries

Northwest LA Veterans Cemetery 7970 Mike Clark Road Keithville, LA 71047 (318) 925-0612

Central LA Veterans Cemetery 3348 University Parkway Leesville, LA 71446 (337) 238-6405

Southeast LA Veterans Cemetery 34888 Grantham College Road Slidell, LA 70460 (985) 646-6458

Northeast LA Veterans Cemetery 2413 Hwy 425 Rayville, LA 71269 (318) 728-4346

The military service requirement for burial in LA state Veterans cemeteries must be in accordance with the eligibility standards as set by the USVA National Cemetery Administration. At a minimum, one must meet one of the following:

- Veteran was discharged from active-duty under other than dishonorable conditions
- Veteran died while serving on active-duty
- Veteran served at least 20 years in the National Guard or Reserves and qualified for military retirement pay (or would have qualified, except death occurred before age 60)

Spouses and dependent children of Veterans who were eligible for burial may also be interred in state Veterans cemeteries. Burial benefits may include the following: gravesites for casket or cremation remains, headstones or markers, opening and closing of the graves, and continued perpetual care.

Burial of an eligible Veteran is at no cost to the Veteran. A small fee is charged at the time of interment for spouses and dependent children of eligible Veterans.

National Veterans Cemeteries

Alexandria National Cemetery Visitation Only (no new interments) 209 E. Shamrock Ave. Pineville, LA 71360

Baton Rouge National Cemetery Visitation Only (no new interments) 220 North 19th Street Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Port Hudson National Cemetery 20978 Port Hickey Road Zachary, LA 70791 (225) 654-3767

Military Funeral Honors

Based on available resources, funeral honors may be available and may include the presence of military members, folding and presentation of the flag, firing details, and the sounding of Taps.

Military Funeral Honors are available through the different branches of service upon request and upon availability.

Army:

Casualty Assistance Section, Ft. Polk Phone: 337-531-6316/1726

Navy:

Naval Region SE

Toll Free Phone: 877-478-3988

Air Force:

NCOIC Barksdale AFB Honor Guard Phone: 318-456-5246/318-564-8146

Marine Corps:

Inspector Instructor Offices
Toll Free Phone: 866-826-3628

Coast Guard:

New Orleans, La.

Phone: 504-253-6361/504-628-5270

Other Programs

Military Family Assistance Fund (MFA)

vetaffairs.la.gov 1-877-GEAUX-VA

Provides assistance to members of the Louisiana National Guard or Military Reserves and their families to help address financial hardships experienced when they are placed on active-duty status for 30 or more consecutive days.

Louisiana Veterans Honor Medal Program

vetaffairs.la.gov 1-877-GEAUX-VA

Authorized by the 2008 LA Legislature as a way to honor, thank and recognize Louisiana Veterans for their honorable military service.

LA Welcome Home Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program

LDVA welcomes all returning service members home from their service to our country with information on available services and benefits and participates in the Department of Defense Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program.

Louisiana National Guard Death/Disability Benefit

Louisiana National Guard Attn. The Adjutant General Building 305, F Street Camp Beauregard, LA 71360

Louisiana National Guardsmen suffering a permanent and total disability while on federal or state active duty on or after September 11, 2001, or the beneficiary of record of those killed in action may qualify for a \$250,000 death benefit or \$100,000 disability benefit from the State of Louisiana (restrictions apply). To receive a claim form and more information, please contact LA National Guard.

Licensing & Sportsman

Veteran designation on LA Driver's License

Veterans can now indicate their Veteran status on their LA driver's license, available through Louisiana State Office of Motor Vehicle locations. Proof of Veteran status required.

Discounts on LA Driver's License and ID fees

Veterans may qualify for special discounts or waivers on fees for LA Driver's Licenses and ID's, contact Louisiana State Office of Motor Vehicles at (225) 925-6146 or your local LDVA parish service office for details.

"Support our Veterans" Louisiana License Plate

Available for purchase for a one-time fee of \$25 at all Louisiana State Office of Motor Vehicle locations, online at expresslane.org or by calling (225) 925-6146. Proceeds go to the Military Family Assistance Fund.

Specialty LA License Plates For Veterans and Their Families

Please visit http:\\omv.dps.state.la.us for a full listing of all available Veteran LA license plates.

Hunting and Fishing Privileges

Free hunting and fishing licenses are offered to Louisiana Veterans with a 50% or higher VA service-connected disability rating. Louisiana also grants resident status to active-duty service members when purchasing hunting and fishing licenses. Applications may be obtained and certified at LDVA Veterans Parish Service Offices.

Free Entrance to State Parks

Veterans with a 50% or higher VA service-connected disability rating are exempt from paying the day-use entrance fee to any Louisiana state park. Applications for this exemption may be obtained by contacting LDVA Veterans Parish Service Offices.

Federal Benefits Overview

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) offers a variety of benefits including education, compensation, pension, housing, and health care. LDVA maintains a claims assistance office at the VA Regional Office in New Orleans as well as Veterans Parish Service Offices across the state. LDVA staff advise and assist Louisiana Veterans and their families in filing and pursuing claims with the federal VA in a number of ways including:

- Identifying what documentation is needed to support the best possible chance of having a VA claim approved
- Monitoring the claim as it is processed and interceding as needed if problems arise.
- Explain and clarify VA procedures as they apply to claims
- If a Veteran's claim is denied by the VA and the Veteran disagrees with the denial, LDVA staff will assist the Veteran through the appeals process.

Federal VA Compensation and Pension vba.va.gov 1-800-827-1000

The Veterans Benefits Administration provides information on compensation and pension as well as education, vocational rehabilitation, home loans, survivor benefits, and life insurance. Benefit information for returning Veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, benefit fact sheets, and a federal benefits booklet for Veterans and dependents are available.

Disability Compensation

A payment to Veterans who are disabled by injury or disease incurred, or aggravated as a result of military service.

Pension

Financial support for Veterans with limited income when they have 90 days or more of active-duty military service, one day of which was during a wartime period. To qualify, a Veteran must be permanently and totally disabled for reasons traceable neither to military service nor to willful misconduct or must be over 65 years of age. The Veteran must have been discharged from active-duty service under conditions other than dishonorable.

Vocational Rehabilitation

Employment assistance, training, and education are available for Veterans who were released from service under conditions other than dishonorable and have service connected disabilities.

Health Care Benefits

Medical treatment and hospital care for veterans with service connected disabilities and others who meet VA eligibility criteria.

Education Benefits

Post 9-11 GI Bill/Montgomery GI Bill benefits for former active—duty service persons and eligible members of the Reserve Components.

Burial Benefits

Including burial in state or federal Veterans' cemeteries. Headstones, markers or medallions may be provided for burials in private cemeteries.

VA Guaranteed Home Loans

May be used by Veterans and unmarried surviving spouses of those who died of a service-connected disease or disability, to purchase or refinance a home.

Federal VA Health Care va.gov/health 1-877-222-8387

VA Medical Centers

VA Medical Center, Alexandria 2495 Shreveport Highway Pineville, LA 71306 (318) 473-0010 1-800-375-8387

Southeast LA Veterans Health Care System 1601 Perdido Street New Orleans, LA 70112 1-800-935-8387

> VA Medical Center, Shreveport 510 E. Stoner Avenue Shreveport, LA 71101 (318) 221-8411 1-800-863-7441

VA Outpatient Clinics

7968 Essen Park Ave. Baton Rouge, LA 70809 (225) 761-3400

1907 Johnson St. Jennings, LA 70546 (337)824-1000

3353 University Parkway Leesville, LA 71446 (337) 392-3801

603 Halfleigh Street Franklin, LA 70538 (337) 828-9092 319 Memphis Street Bogalusa, LA 70427 (985) 735-9029

2100 Jefferson St, Suite 102A Lafayette, LA 70501 337-261-0734

1131 South Morrison Ave Hammond, LA 70403 985-902-5100

1750 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd, Suite 107 Houma, LA 70360 985-851-0188

> 250 DeSiard Plaza Dr Monroe, LA 71203 800-832-3525; 318-343-6100

> > 4004 West Airline Hwy Reserve, LA 70084 985-479-6770

60491 Doss Drive Slidell, LA 70460 985-690-2626

Natchitoches Community Based Outpatient Clinic 740 Keyser Avenue Natchitoches, LA 71457 (318) 357-3300

Vet Centers

Baton Rouge Vet Center 5207 Essen Park, Suite 2 Baton Rouge, LA 70809 (225) 761-3440

Kenner Vet Center 2200 Veterans Blvd., Suite 114 Kenner, LA 70062 (504) 565-4977

> Shreveport Vet Center 2800 Youree Drive Building 1, Suite, 105 Shreveport, LA 71104 (318) 861-1776

Rapides Parish Vet Center 5803 Coliseum Blvd., Suite D Alexandria, LA 70303 (318) 466-4327 1-877-927-8387

DAV Transportation Assistance

The Louisiana Department of Disabled American Veterans operates several vans around the state to assist Veterans who need help getting to VA medical appointments. For information about van pick-up sites in your area, contact:

- In Alexandria, LA: hospital service coordinator at 1-800-375-8387 ext. 12709
- <u>In Shreveport, LA:</u> hospital service coordinator at 1-800-863-7441 ext. 17025

Veterans Museums in Louisiana

National World War II Museum

945 Magazine Street New Orleans, LA 70130 (504) 527-6012

USS KIDD and Veterans Memorial

305 South River Road Baton Rouge, LA 70802 (225) 342-1942

Louisiana Military Museum

201 Memorial Drive Ruston, LA 71270 (318) 251-5099

Chennault Aviation Museum

701 Kansas Lane Monroe, LA 71203 (318) 362-5540

Regional Military Museum

1154 Barrow Street Houma, LA 70360 (985) 873-8200

USS Orleck Naval Museum

604 North Enterprise Blvd. Lake Charles, LA 70601 (337) 214-7447

LA Military Hall of Fame Museum

911 Revis Sirmon Loop Abbeville, LA 70510 (337) 898-9645

8th Air Force Museum

88 Shreveport Road Barksdale AFB, LA 71110 (318) 456-4171

Veterans Service Organizations

The American Legion

Mathew Farlow, Department Adjutant 602 North 5th Street Baton Rouge, LA 70802 (225) 219-1945 adjutant@lalegion.org

AMVETS

Marion Polk 3409 England Drive Alexandria, LA 71301 (318) 308-6500

American Ex-Prisoners of War

Beth Dawson, Department Commander 4657 Highway 68 Jackson, LA 70748 (225) 654-9653

Disabled American Veterans

Edward Gary, Department Adjutant 602 North 5th Street Baton Rouge, LA 70802 (225) 219-1046 adjutant@davdol.org

Military Order of the Purple Heart

Lloyd King 103 Tyrona Street Lafayette, LA 70507 (337) 233-9555

Louisiana Veterans Coalition

Robert Griffith, Secretary/PIO 1786 Glendale Road DeRidder, LA 70634 (337) 208-8742

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Precilla Wilkewitz, Department Adjutant 10185 Mammoth Avenue Baton Rouge, LA 70814 (225) 928-5025 lavfw@aol.com

OEF/OIF

Eleanor Chapitol 1515 Poydras St., Ste. 1280 New Orleans, LA 70112 (504) 566-8478

Vietnam Veterans of America

Dennis Andras 3505 Lake Arrowhead Harvey, LA 70058 (504) 382-0682

National Association of Atomic Veterans

Rodney Lee Guidry, LA State Commander 3917 Highway 28 East Pineville, LA 71360-5412 (318) 473-9683

Korean War Veterans

James Morrison 5811 Dutton Ave Baton Rouge, LA 70805 (225) 357-3815

PVA

Wayne Blackwell 29655 Prokop Rd. Albany, LA 70711 (985) 974-2558

Marine Corps League

Dennis A. Bergeron, Commandant 909 Ronson Drive Kenner, LA 70065 504-466-4461 (home) dbergeron7@att.net

LA National Guard Enlisted Association

CSM Donald Everett, President (337) 349-8435 csmats@bellsouth.net

LA Council of Chapters (MOAA)

Charles Guidry, LTC USAR Ret. 318 Marilyn Drive Lafayette, LA 70503 (337) 984-4662 bggretired@bellsouth.net

Veterans Action Coalition of South LA

Rodney Hamilton 217 Cricklade Court Youngsville, LA 70592 (337) 856-0092

NOTES

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